

Remarks

Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I, first embodiment, corresponding to Figures 1, 5, 6, and 7 (with Figures 2, 3, and 4 showing embodiments of parts or portions of the first embodiment). Claims 1-6, 12, 14-27, and 39-53 are believed to read on the elected Group and embodiment. Applicants further believe that, in addition to claims 1 and 23, claims 2-4, 12, 14-22, 24, 25, and 39-53 are also generic to the two species embodiments of Group I.

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction between Groups I and II, made on the ground that the inventions of Groups I and II are unrelated. Applicants submit that Groups I and II are related in that the method of maintaining an optical switch claimed in Group II (claims 54-58) is applicable particularly to optical switches of the type disclosed and claimed as Group I. Further, the method of Group II is practiced in part by employing an optical switch having optical modules wherein "each optical module includ[es] a collimator element and a beam steering element each secured to a frame member, the frame member being configured to position the collimator element in fixed optical alignment relative to the beam steering element." This feature is also claimed in Group I.

Applicants also preliminarily amend the claims of the present application as shown above in order to correct various typographical errors. None of the amendments are intended as substantive. The amendments introduce no new matter. The claim amendments are presented in the recently announced revised format.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Response timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Gregory V. Bean at 607-974-2698.

Respectfully submitted,

CORNING INCORPORATED


Date: 16 June 03



Gregory V. Bean
Registration No. 36,448
Corning Incorporated
Patent Department
Mail Stop SP-TI-03-1
Corning, NY 14831

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8: I

hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, as first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 16 June 03


Gregory V. Bean, Signature